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breach in Japanese exclusiveness. His expedition and negotiations furnish Mr. Foster with the details for a dramatic narrative, well made use of. Here, too, American friendship to Japan is clearly set forth, culminating in our readiness to permit treaty revision which should cast off the shackles of a tariff set by the importer and of extraterritorial jurisdiction, a revision necessarily to be undertaken only in connection with our commercial rivals, and in point of fact not accepted by them until after the war with China in 1894. The effect of this war upon the international position of Japan is noted. But perhaps Mr. Foster might have added the reflection that in the divergent courses of China and Japan, the one rejecting, the other making use of modern ideas, we have a striking illustration of the fact that even to-day the position of a state in political society is the position that it has the power to enforce, and no more. Military power, or the possession of resources convertible into such power, is still the criterion of international status. Japan has been able to perform its international duties and insist upon its rights; China has been unable to do either.

Our relations with Hawaii are well set forth. The temptation to annex these favored islands seems to have been irresistible with half the European squadrons which visited them. That the United States could permit no such step is made clear. But that one administration after another disclaimed any desire to annex the Hawaiian Islands is not brought out. Yet with the exception of Mr. Marcy's oft-quoted despatch of 1853, there is hardly a state paper treating the question, from 1840 to the overthrow of the monarchy, which does not express this idea. Nor does Mr. Foster bring out the technical fault of American recognition of the new government in 1893, the day after the revolution, before the rest of Oahu and the other islands could show whether the new government had popular support or not. This was in violation of our usage in such cases.

These, however, are minor criticisms. The book is clearly and interestingly written, is eminently fair-minded, and should be read by those who desire knowledge of our relations with a part of the world whose future line of development is still so obscure. But that these relations are likely to be closer than ever before and to be fraught with great consequences to this country, we cannot avoid believing.

THEODORE S. WOOLSEY.

*The True Abraham Lincoln.* By WILLIAM ELEROY CURTIS. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1903. Pp. xiv, 409.)

A "true" biography without scandal is indeed a novelty, but this is the only strikingly original feature of Mr. Curtis's book. The author forbends criticism on this point, however, by stating that there were "no mysteries in his career to excite curiosity." "Of such a man, wrote a well-known writer, the last word can never be said. Each succeeding generation may profit by the contemplation of his strength and triumph."

The verdict on the book must rest, therefore, on its peculiar adaptation to the needs of the present generation.

The topical method adopted in this series frankly dismisses the more difficult problems of construction ; those peculiar to it Mr. Curtis handles with some skill, but he fails to manifest that constant care in correlating facts which is so necessary to prevent repetition and contradiction. " John Johnson, Lincoln's step-brother," on page 30 is " John D. Johnson, his step-brother," on page 32 ; and Lincoln's temperance views on page 286 are not precisely those recorded on page 381. No amount of care and skill, moreover, could possibly disguise the fact that this form of treatment is not suited to a life of Lincoln. He was not versatile as were Franklin and Jefferson, nor was his career many-sided as was that of Washington. He occasionally applied his wonderful insight to the problems of diplomacy and war, but the central point of Mr. Curtis's chapters on " A Prairie Politician," " A President and His Cabinet," " A Commander-in Chief and his Generals," and " A Master in Diplomacy " is his ability to handle men ; and nine-tenths of the contents of these chapters could be interchanged without altering their character. More serious is the fact that the disregard for chronology causes us to lose sight of the most significant feature of Lincoln's life — his continuous development.

This last criticism is closely akin to a word of praise. Undoubtedly many writers have overestimated the squalor of Lincoln's youth in order to enhance the story of his rise. Mr. Curtis is thoroughly conversant with the results of recent investigations into Lincoln's family and boyhood, and he presents material with regard to them which will be novel to many of his readers. In general he shows acquaintance with the best works on his subject. It is natural that a life of Lincoln should be saturated with anecdotes ; in the thirty-six pages of the chapter on " How Lincoln appeared in the White House " are forty-seven ; the average through the book is one to a page. It is not Lincoln alone that Mr. Curtis's modesty allows to speak, but many writers about Lincoln. Of the twenty-six pages of the last chapter, fifteen are in quotation-marks ; Chapter IV., with twenty out of fifty pages quoted, is normal. The book is prefaced with a stanza from Lowell's Commemoration Ode and concludes with a quotation from Emerson. These many voices, though a little discordant on minor matters, all harmonize in accomplishing Mr. Curtis's design " to portray the character of Abraham Lincoln as the highest type of the American " (p. 1). " His errors were due to mercy and not to malice ; to prudence and not to thoughtlessness or pride ; to deliberation and not to recklessness " (p. 394).

The style reveals the newspaper correspondent ; bright and readable, it is marred by loose and ambiguous phrases. " Never was an audience more completely electrified by human speech " (p. 105) ; Seward could not have been defeated by " a combination of the minority " (p. 197) ; and the context shows that Mr. Curtis does not consider that " avarice was the least of " Lincoln's " faults " (p. 74). This looseness some-

times extends to the logic ; Mr. Curtis can hardly think that to return a private favor with an Indian agency was a notably "honorable discharge" of obligation (p. 34).

The lack of historical background is distinctly lamentable. If the sentence, "During long years of controversy, the pro-slavery party had hope of ultimate triumph, but until the election of Lincoln there was no actual treason or revolutionary act" (p. 161) means anything, it is the expression of a view long since discarded. The "Secessionists" did not control both houses of Congress in February, 1861 ; and the danger feared with regard to the counting of the electoral vote was military and not legislative (p. 166). Scarcely the most rabid Republican of 1861 would have called President Buchanan and General Duff Green "rebel leaders" (pp. 162-163). The men who came into conflict with Lincoln are almost invariably led by the most personal of motives. Douglas was "compelled to choose between the favor and support of the Buchanan administration and that of the people of Illinois. As the latter alternative was necessary to his public career, he adopted it" (p. 108). The treatment of Chase is extremely harsh.

Errors of typography are few and the dates are generally accurate, but there are a few slips of the pen ; on page 187 Buchanan should be Pierce, and on page 207 Seward should be Chase. The illustrations are well selected, including eight pictures of Lincoln, and are attractively reproduced. The index is slight and inaccurate.

C. R. FISH.

*Memories of a Hundred Years.* By EDWARD EVERETT HALE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1902. Two vols., pp. xiv, 318 ; ix, 321.)

*Colonel Alexander K. McClure's Recollections of Half a Century.* (Salem, Mass.: The Salem Press Company. 1902. Pp. vii, 502.)

THESE two works, the one by an octogenarian, the other by one nearing the same mile-stone, the first from the facile pen of the well-known Boston clergyman and literary man, the second by the almost equally celebrated Philadelphia journalist and sometime politician, at once challenge the attention and awaken our interest. Very few men of their time have enjoyed a wider or more intimate acquaintance with those who were the leaders of the thought and life of the nation for the past half-century.

In view of the title of Dr. Hale's volumes, one might almost be pardoned for asking him the same question which he tells us a Philadelphia lady in unconscious ignorance put to him at the conclusion of a lecture on Washington, namely, whether he was personally acquainted with his hero. The *Memories*, in fact, go back as far as the French and Indian War. As the author informs us that his own recollections do not antedate Lafayette's visit in 1825, when Hale was three years of age, it is clear that a part of the remembering must necessarily be done by proxy. Indeed the author explains that they embrace what he happily calls